

Message Text

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42

ACTION SAM-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 H-02 PRS-01 RSC-01 /016 W

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R 270824Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3015

UNCLAS HONG KONG 12882

USIAC

FOR ICS; STATE FOR SA/M

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: ED WITH AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY

REF: HONG KONG 12810

1. FYI AND IN EVENT AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY WISHES TO UTILIZE IN OPENING REMARKS OR DURING COURSE OF DEC. 11 DIALOGUE, HERewith A FEW BACKGROUND NOTES ON THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB.
2. THE FCC WAS FOUNDED IN CHUNGKING, CHINA, IN 1937. THE CLUB WAS BASED IN CHUNGKING DURING WORLD WAR II AND THEN STARTED MOVING WITH THE EBB AND FLOW OF THE CHINA CIVIL WAR.
3. FROM CHUNGKING, THE CLUB WAS MOVED TO NANING IN 1946 AND LATER TO SHANGHAI, WHERE IT OCCUPIED PREMISES IN THE BROADWAY MANSIONS, HOME FOR MANY FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN THE LATE 1940S.
4. IN 1949, CLUB OFFICERS EVACUATED TO HONG KONG AND ESTABLISHED THE PRESENT CLUB IN A PRE-WAR MANSION ON CONDUIT ROAD, WHICH SERVED AS A LOCATION FOR FILM "LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING." THE CLUB HAS MOVED THREE TIMES DURING ITS 25 YEARS IN HONG KONG. ITS PRESENT LOCATION IS IN SUTHERLAND HOUSE, BEHIND THE HONG KONG CLUB. THE CLUB HAS ORGANIZED A NUMBER OF PROFESSIONAL AND

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SOCIAL EVENTS THIS YEAR TO MARK ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY IN HONG KONG

AND A NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, INCLUDING LORD THOMASON OF FLEET AND SENATOR HUGH SCOTT, HAVE ADDRESSED THE MEMBERS.

5. THE CLUB'S PRESENT MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES 120 CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS, PLUS OVER 600 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS. CORRESPONDENT MEMBERS REPRESENT NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, BROADCASTERS AND NEWS AGENCIES OF NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, ASIA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND. SOME OF THE STAFF, INCLUDING "CAPTAIN" LIAO, HAVE BEEN WITH THE CLUB SINCE CHUNGKING DAYS.

6. INFO ON CORRESPONDENTS ATTENDING DEC. 11 AFFAIR AND QUESTIONS WHICH MANY BE ASKED WILL BE TRANSMITTED LATER.
IZENBERG

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